

## **AGENDA**

Eau Claire County

- Land Conservation Commission •

**Date:** Monday, February 15, 2021 **Time:** 1:00 P.M.

*\*via remote access **ONLY**.*

*\*Event link below can be used to connect to meeting and interact (by the chair) from computer or through the WebEx Meeting smartphone app.*

**Join WebEx Meeting:** <https://eauclairecounty.webex.com>, Meeting ID: 145 528 7765, Password: JTjBxgQn232

*\*Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.*

**Audio conference:** 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 145 528 7765

**For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Greg Leonard at**

**[Greg.Leonard@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Greg.Leonard@co.eau-claire.wi.us) at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public comment period to make your comments.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to order by Chair
2. Roll call
3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law
4. Public Comment Period
5. Review/Approval of January 25, 2020 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action **Page 2-3**
6. Review Vouchers and Ledger Update – Discussion **Page 4**
7. Approval of new and/or previously authorized Cost-Share agreements – Discussion/Action **Page 5-6**
8. Land Stewardship Fund Policy & Procedures revision-Discussion/Action **Page 7-20**
9. Request USDA-NRCS to appoint and locate a District Conservationist (DC) in the Eau Claire County Field Office-Discussion/Action
10. No-Till Drill Update-Discussion **Page 21**
11. Committee, Staff and Agency Updates **Page 22-23**
  - a. Farm Technology Days
  - b. Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition
  - c. Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program
  - d. Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program
  - e. Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta
  - f. Land Stewardship Subcommittee
  - g. USDA-NRCS / FSA
  - h. DNR-Forestry
  - i. UW-Extension
12. Future Agenda items
13. Set date for next meeting
14. Adjourn

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021**

**REMOTE MEETING - EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Robin Leary, Heather DeLuka, Missy Christopherson, Tami Schraufnagel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ricky Strauch, Glory Adams, Dean Solie

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard, Chad Berge, and Liz Fagen – Land Conservation Division

OTHERS PRESENT: Jamie Kraklow-USDA-NRCS, Jeff Seward

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**1) Call to order by Chair**

Chair Gibson called the remote meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**2) Roll call**

Roll call was taken; Gibson, Leary, DeLuka, Christopherson, and Schraufnagel were present. Solie, Strauch, and Adams were absent. A quorum was present.

**3) Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Gibson confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

**4) Public Comment Period**

None.

**5) Review/Approval of December 20, 2020 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action**

**ACTION:** Motion by Leary to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 5-0-0.

**6) Review Vouchers and Ledger Update**

The December expenditures and revenues were reviewed. The expense for Matoon Rentals is return of the required Financial Assurance which was previously received for the Stormwater Permit.

**7) Approval of new and/or previously authorized Cost-Share agreements – Discussion/Action**

No Cost-Share agreements were previously authorized. The following Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-Share applications were presented for approval:

Tim Rogge – Well Abandonment - \$400.00 (County Levy funds), \$401.25 (Landowner funds)

**ACTION:** Motion by DeLuka to approve the Best Management Practice cost-share application. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 5-0-0.

Paul & Emily Madsen – Streambank Protection & Grade Stabilization Structure - \$20,373.00 (DATCP bond funds), \$2,037.30 (County Levy funds), \$18,335.70 (Landowner funds)

This cost-share agreement includes a request to cost-share private engineering fees. This has been an option with DATCP funding but has not previously been utilized in Eau Claire County. Berge provided explanation on the calculations within state code ATCP 50. The request is below the allowable amount within ATCP 50.

**ACTION:** Motion by Schraufnagel to approve the Best Management Practice cost-share application including the engineering fees. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 5-0-0.

**8) Land Stewardship Fund Policy & Procedures revision**

Recent conversations with the Finance Department on the type of accounts used to hold the Land Stewardship funds have found a discrepancy between the type of accounts available and what is stated within the Policy & Procedures. Specific revision recommendations from Finance are as follows: Section 3.0 “The Fund will be established as a non-lapsing segregated special revenue fund with dedicated revenue and expenditure accounts, funded through a variety of sources including public grants, private contributions, service or development fees, and

other sources of revenue deemed appropriate by the County.” The Land Stewardship Subcommittee has made a recommendation to the LCC to amend the document as presented.

**ACTION:** Motion by Leary to forward the revision to Corporation Counsel and the Committee on Finance & Budget for review. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 5-0-0.

**9) Stewardship Fund balance and Watershed Fund balance review**

Leonard reviewed the Stewardship Fund Balance, the Watershed Fund Balance, and the need to properly to reimburse the Watershed Fund with funds from the Stewardship Fund for Stewardship program activities. The Watershed Fund Balance spreadsheet will be updated annually and shared with the LCC.

**10) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates**

Brief reviews and updates were provided.

- a) **County Deer Advisory Committee recommendation:** We received a Thank You email from Bob Paddock for our support of the resolution last year.
- b) **Conservation Awards Presentation:** Will occur during the remote County Board session April 20, just before Soil Stewardship Week of April 25-May 2.
- c) **Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition:** One of the EPA mini-grant workshops will be announced soon.
- d) **Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program:** Eau Claire County applied for and was awarded an additional \$10,119.20 grant.
- e) **Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program:** An extension has been requested.
- f) **Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta:** Planning on 2021 construction. Hi-Crush has indicated willingness to include their land in the project.
- g) **Land Stewardship Subcommittee:** Working on a story-map project.
- h) **USDA-NRCS / FSA:** No report.
- i) **DNR-Forestry:** No report.
- j) **UW-Extension:** No report.

**11) Future Agenda Items**

Staff will request a Farm Technology Days update from Mark Hagedorn.

**12) Set Date for next meeting**

The next meeting was set for Monday, February 15, 2021 at 1:00 pm as a remote meeting.

**13) Adjourn**

Gibson adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard, LCC Clerk

## Land Conservation Division

### 2021 Bills

The following bills were sent to the Finance Department for payment.

### January

Vendor	Amount	Description	Account
NACD	\$ 125.00	2021 NACD Dues	56922-324-000
Rogge, Tim	\$ 400.00	Well Abandonment-CCS	56924-390-703
Wi Land + Water	\$ 1,776.00	2021 WI Land and Water Dues	56922-324-000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,301.00</b>		

### 2020 Bills:

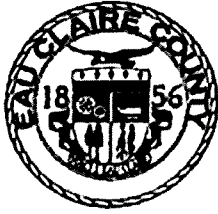
Vendor	Amount	Description	Account
Anderson, Dean	\$ 1,344.00	SEG-20-08/SEG-20-09	56924-200-707
Geske, Scott	\$ 11,454.00	SEG-20-04/SEG-20-05	56924-200-707
Krenz, Matthew	\$ 4,552.00	SEG-20-12	56924-200-707
Rindal, Steve	\$ 3,720.00	SEG-20-13	56924-200-707
Stensen Excavating	\$ 374.60	BD-06-20 MCAvoy WW-CCS	56924-390-703
Stensen Excavating	\$ 5,244.40	BD-06-20 MCAvoy WW-Bond	56924-200-706
Voyager	\$ 97.01	Dec 2020 Fuel	56920-330-000
Wehling, Eric	\$ 1,776.00	SEG-20-03	56924-200-707
Gunderson, Allyn	\$ 1,520.00	SEG-20-10 SEG 20-11	56924-200-707
Schaffer, Patrick	\$ 334.70	CCS-BD-19-06	56924-390-703
Schaffer, Patrick	\$ 4,685.80	BOND-BD-19-06	56924-200-706
Schumacher, james	\$ 3,528.00	SEG-20-12	56924-200-707
<b>Total Bills Paid in January:</b>	<b>\$38,630.51</b>		

**Total      \$40,931.51**

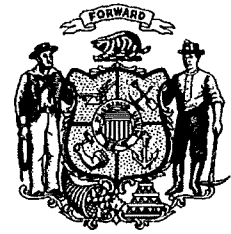
### Deposits

The following deposits were taken to the Treasury Department to be processed.

Description	Number	Amount Deposited	Date
Tree Sale	46810-000-701	\$1,292.00	1/5/2021
<b>2020</b> Large Scale TRM	43586-000-719	\$499.00	1/5/2021
<b>2020</b> HyrdoVu Lake EC	43586-000-719	\$420.00	1/5/2021
<b>2020</b> HyrdoVu Lake Altoona	43586-000-719	\$420.00	1/15/2021
<b>2020</b> NTD-110 Wanta	48900-000-720	\$50.00	1/21/2021
<b>2020</b> EC-28-20 Schultz	46820-000-000	\$280.00	1/5/2021
<b>2020</b> EC-24-20 Olson	46820-000-000	\$80.00	1/5/2021
Tree Sale	46810-000-701	\$1,377.00	1/5/2021
Tree Sale	46810-000-701	\$3,428.50	1/15/2021
EC-02-21 Stensen	46820-000-000	\$290.00	1/15/2021
EC-01-21 Green	46820-000-000	\$290.00	1/15/2021
Tree Sale	46810-000-701	\$669.50	1/22/2021
Tree Sale	46810-000-701	\$423.00	1/22/2021
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$9,519.00</b>	



**Eau Claire County Planning and Development**  
**LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION**  
 Eau Claire County Courthouse - Room 3344  
 721 Oxford Avenue  
 Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703-5212  
 Phone: (715) 839-6226 • Fax: (715) 831-5802



**COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

NAME: Allyn Gunderson TELEPHONE: 715-579-1789

ADDRESS: E 10280 Partridge Rd, Fall Creek, WI 54742

FARM LOCATION: T 26 N      R 08 W      S 34      Town of Washington  
TOWN                      RANGE                      SECTION                      TOWNSHIP

**AGREEMENT PROVISIONS**

**1. COST SHARE DETAILS**

PRACTICE: 590 - Nutrient Management Plan ACRES: 59 COST SHARE RATE: \$ 4.00 /ACRE

COST SHARE SOURCE: NMFE TOTAL COST SHARE AMOUNT: \$ 236.00

**2. AS A COST SHARE RECIPIENT, I AGREE TO:**

- a) Submit a copy of the certified Nutrient Management Plan and all materials, including current soil samples, by the end of the calendar year.
  - a. Soil Samples can be no older than 4 years.
  - b. Soil samples must be taken at a minimum rate of 1 sample per 5 acres.
- b) Implement and annually update the nutrient management plan once it has been approved by a Certified Nutrient Management Planner.
- c) Develop and implement a Conservation Plan that meets tolerable soil loss "T".
- d) Notify Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division staff immediately if I decide to withdraw from this agreement.

**3. THE LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION AGREES TO:**

- a) Reimburse the Applicant at the cost share rate (above) when:
  - a. The Land Conservation Commission has approved this Agreement;
  - b. A Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program Cost Share Contract has been signed by the Applicant and all Landowners (if applicable)
  - c. A Nutrient Management Plan has been submitted that meets NRCS Practice Standard 590 & Technical Note WI-1.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION  
COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

I request cost sharing for the practice (s) listed on Page 1 of this agreement and agree to install and maintain the practice(s) in accordance with the "Agreement Provisions" listed:

Allyn Johnson  
APPLICANT SIGNATURE

1/13/21  
DATE

<b>LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION ACTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>APPROVE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DENY</b>
_____ LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBER	_____ DATE	

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

I certify that the Nutrient Management Plan submitted meets NRCS Practice Standard 590 and Technical Note WI-1:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION TECHNICIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

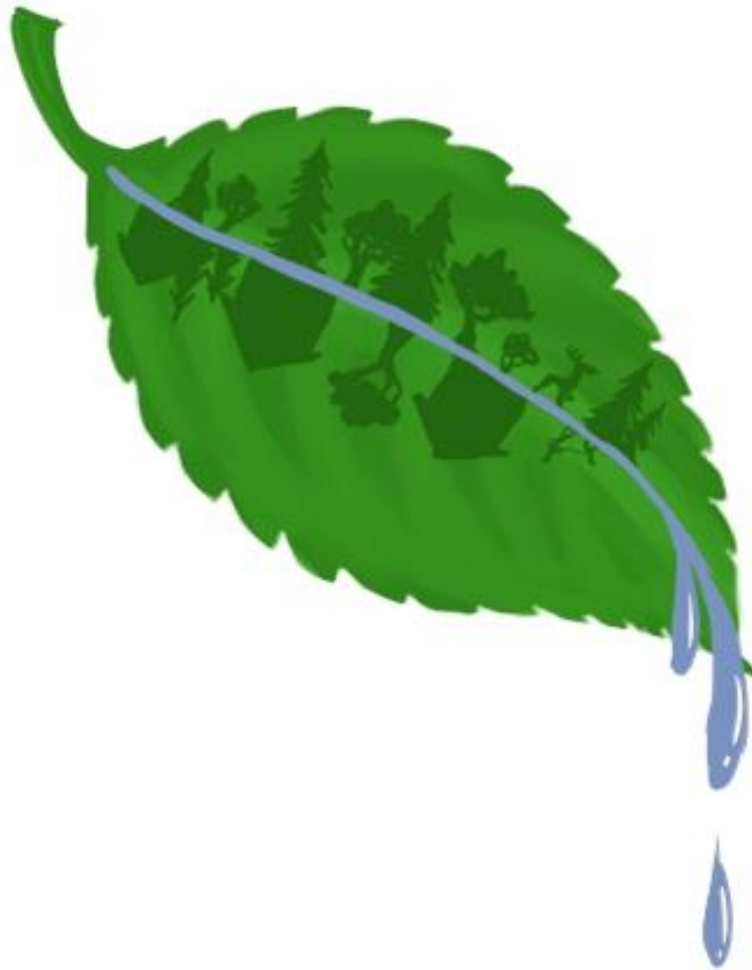
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>		ACRES
<b>COST SHARE RATE</b>	\$	PER ACRE
<b>TOTAL COST SHARE AMOUNT</b>	\$	
<b>COST SHARE SOURCE</b>		

THE APPLICANT HAS MET ALL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE COST SHARE PAYMENT FROM EAU CLAIRE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT SHOWN ABOVE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION MANAGER

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

***EAU CLAIRE COUNTY LAND  
STEWARDSHIP FUND  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION***



Eau Claire County Land Conservation Commission (January 2011, revised January 2021)

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY LAND STEWARDSHIP FUND  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

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# EAU CLAIRE COUNTY LAND STEWARDSHIP FUND POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

## *INTENT AND PURPOSE*

### **1.0 Introduction**

In Wisconsin, counties have been given the authority and responsibility to plan and to administer local land use and resource conservation programs.

In recent years, Eau Claire County has experienced a steady rate of population growth.

As part of this growth, there has been widespread development of residential and commercial properties in unincorporated areas. This growth trend is expected to accelerate in response to expansion of the regional highway network, and ongoing efforts by Eau Claire County to encourage tourism and economic development.

The Congress and State legislature have recently reduced Federal and State allocations which have been applied to implement resource conservation and pollution control programs in the County. It is anticipated that in the future, public agencies will distribute grants to the County, based upon the County's capacity to generate local matching funds.

Eau Claire County has relied heavily on outside funding sources to develop and implement its local land use and resource conservation programs. Given current development trends and associated pressures on land resources, there is an inherent need to maintain and possibly expand the County's resource conservation efforts. This accelerated need comes at a time when traditional revenue sources are being reduced or eliminated.

To address this issue, it is in the County's interest to develop a fiscal strategy and alternative funding source, which will be used by the County to leverage local funds to meet local land use and conservation needs. As a result, the Eau Claire County Board adopted Resolution #09-10/003 on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, which directed the Land Conservation Commission to develop a Land Stewardship Program and corresponding ordinance.

## 1.1 Purpose

The Eau Claire County Land Stewardship Fund (“Fund”) will assist landowners, municipalities, and local units of government, and non-profit organizations to meet land conservation and resource management objectives in Eau Claire County.

This fund may be used to:

- a) Purchase or accept donation of land through fee title or other interest in land for future community needs. This may include acquisitions for public parks and open spaces; access corridors to lakes or rivers; recreational trail corridors; County or School Forests; or environmental / recreational land conservation related uses.
- b) Purchase conservation easements or accept donations of development rights in order to achieve land use policy objectives, as specified in an approved Town or County land use plan. This may include donations or purchases of easements to preserve prime farmland, woodlots, environmental corridors, shorelands, wetlands, municipal well recharge areas, or planned open space.
- c) Purchase or accept donations of land or easements in support of local fish and wildlife habitat development, improvement projects or restoration projects.
- d) Undertake other purposes and activities as deemed appropriate.

To expand the utility and efficiency of this concept, the County Land Stewardship Program will be administered to:

- a) Encourage tax-exempt community contributions from corporate or other businesses, local conservation organizations, community service organizations, estates, private individuals or foundations.
- b) Acquire matching grants available from public agencies or private non-profit foundations.
- c) Distribute matching grants to local municipalities, land trusts, and nonprofit organizations that meet grant criteria established by Eau Claire County Land Conservation Commission.

## ADMINISTRATION

### 2.0 *Administrative Authority and Responsibility*

To administer the Eau Claire County Land Stewardship Program, it is the intent of the Eau Claire County Board to authorize the Land Conservation Commission to exercise statutory authority assigned to the Committee in WI Stats. 92.07

The Land Conservation Commission shall administer, in the name of the County, the Eau Claire County Land Stewardship Fund.

The Land Conservation Commission will establish a Land Stewardship Sub-Committee (“Sub-committee”) comprised of Land Conservation Commission member(s) and Parks and Forest Committee member(s) and members of the public. The Stewardship Sub-Committee shall establish priorities, evaluate the needs of the program and solicit contributions to the County Land Stewardship Fund. The Stewardship Sub-Committee shall also evaluate land preservation needs within the County and will provide recommendations back to the Land Conservation Commission.

The Sub-Committee shall meet on an as-needed basis or as directed by the Land Conservation Supervisor.

## SOURCE AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

### 3.0 *Fiscal Management and Accounting*

The Fund will be established as a non-lapsing ~~segregated special revenue~~ fund with dedicated revenue and expenditure accounts, funded through a variety of sources including public grants, private contributions, service or development fees, and other sources of revenue deemed appropriate by the County.

The Fund will be managed by the Land Conservation Commission, working with the County Finance Department. The Fund will be managed and audited following standardized accounting procedures adopted and employed by the Eau Claire County Finance Department.

The Land Conservation Commission will evaluate ongoing project needs and will request an allocation as part of the annual County budget process. The County Board will make appropriations contingent on availability of funds.

### **3.1 *Use of Funds and Eligible Expenses***

The Fund may be used for expenses related to the Program as follows:

- a) Matching grants for land or easement acquisition as allocated to eligible individuals, municipalities, organizations or other units of government.
- b) Costs of land acquisitions incurred through direct purchase by the County, including but not limited to appraisals, surveys, signage and legal fees.
- c) Costs of conservation easement acquisitions incurred through direct purchase by the County, or through donation, including but not
- d) limited to appraisals, surveys, and legal fees.
- e) Limited management maintenance costs associated with property and easement management.

### **3.2 *Solicitation of Contributions to Stewardship Fund***

The Sub-Committee will solicit contributions to the Fund from individuals, businesses, corporations, public agencies, non-profit organizations and other sources.

### **3.3 *Gifts of Financial Instruments, Capital Assets, or Personal Property***

The Sub-Committee will evaluate all offers of contribution made by individuals, businesses, corporations, local units of government, or non-profit organizations. If an offer is deemed not to be in the best interest of the program, it may be declined.

Any accepted financial gifts, including cash, stock, or other financial instruments, shall be accepted and formally acknowledged. Proceeds from monetary gifts will be deposited directly in the Fund.

Gifts of personal property will be evaluated for acceptance on a case-by-case basis. In circumstances where a capital asset, other than land or a financial instrument, is offered and accepted, the asset will be sold and the proceeds will be placed in the Fund account.

## *USE OF FUND TO ACCEPT GIFTS OF LAND OR INTEREST IN LAND*

### **4.0 *Gifts of Land or Interests in Land***

Offers of land will be evaluated in the interest of acquiring the property outright, obtaining future purchase options on the property, or acquiring other rights or interests in property.

### **4.1 *Procedures for Evaluating Land Donation Offers***

When approached with a proposed gift of land, the Sub-Committee will consult with the County's Corporation Counsel and evaluate the proposal. If the proposal is deemed acceptable, the Sub-Committee will implement the following procedure:

- a) Prepare a draft letter of intent to be considered and executed by the contributor. The letter of intent will be nonbinding and will document the contributor's interest in negotiating an agreement of land transfer.
- b) Conduct or commission a general title search to verify ownership or obtain a commitment to provide title insurance.
- c) Conduct or commission an environmental site assessment to document the history of land use and the potential risk of environmental contamination.
- d) Estimate the value or commission an appraisal of the property. If the parties agree that an appraisal is needed to determine the value, the County may incur the initial expense of the appraisal from funds provided by the Fund, with the condition that the landowner will repay the cost of the appraisal to the County if the transfer of land is not completed. In the event the landowner chooses to incur the appraisal expense, and the transfer is completed, reimbursement for the appraisal may be provided to the landowner through the Stewardship Fund.
- e) Evaluate and negotiate the terms of the offer. Take action to accept the offer, accept the offer with conditions, or decline the offer.
- f) Prepare a formal letter of response. The letter of response will inform the donor of the Land Conservation Commission's extent of interest and basis of decision.

#### **4.2 *Criteria for Evaluating Offers of Land***

In circumstances where the Land Conservation Commission is approached with a donation of land, the Sub-Committee will evaluate and recommend to the Land Conservation Commission to accept or deny the offer after considering the following criteria:

- a) Conditions placed on the donation by the individual or group making the donation.
- b) Consistency with local land use goals, as defined in an approved local land use plan.
- c) Consistency with local environmental and land use objectives, as defined in a countywide land use or environment plan.
- d) Assessed or appraised fair market value.
- e) Extent and condition of improvements.
- f) Resource condition, potential liabilities and or environmental value.
- g) The capacity of the Land Conservation Commission to conduct ongoing management responsibilities or to transfer such responsibilities to a registered land trust, government agency, municipality, or private party.
- h) Commitment by the County Parks and Forest Committee and County Board to designate and manage the property as a component of the County Parks and Forest Department.
- i) Options for resale with agreement to assign proceeds toward other property acquisition or management of other stewardship properties.

#### **4.3 *Offers of Conservation Easement or Interests in Property***

In circumstances where rights in a property are offered, the Sub-Committee will evaluate the easement or interest in the property and recommend to the Land Conservation Commission to accept or deny the easement acquisition, and may exercise its authority to negotiate and execute conservation easements on behalf of the County.

#### **4.4 *Procedures for Evaluating Offers of Conservation Easement***

When approached with an offer of a conservation easement, the Sub-Committee will evaluate the offer and recommend to the Land Conservation Commission to accept or deny the offer. The Land Conservation Commission will follow the same procedures as those specified for an outright land donation or fee title purchase.

#### **4.5 *Management Responsibility for Conservation Easements***

In circumstances where the County obtains a conservation easement through the Land Stewardship Program, the County may:

- a. Assume management responsibility of the conservation easement.
- b. Actively seek a land trust, public agency or other qualified organization to jointly enter the easement agreement in the interest of sharing management responsibility.
- c. Systematically monitor compliance with provisions of the easement.
- d. Assure compliance through an escalating sequence of enforcement actions.

#### **4.6 *Criteria for Fee Title Acquisition***

In circumstances where a property is offered for sale and funds are requested through the County Stewardship Fund, the Sub-Committee will evaluate the offer and recommend to the Land Conservation Commission to accept or deny the fee title acquisition after considering the following criteria:

- a. The parcel's proximity to designated "acquisition area" as defined and mapped in a public land use, resource management, or recreational plan (i.e. County Forest Comprehensive Land Use 15 Year Plan, public recreational plan, or Town open space plan).
- b. The approximate value of the property in relation to the sale price.
- c. The availability of outside funds secured for the acquisition from other sources.
- d. Where applicable, the criteria in section 4.2, Criteria for Evaluating Offers of Land shall apply.

## *USE OF FUND BY COUNTY AS LOCAL MATCH TO ACQUIRE OUTSIDE GRANTS*

### **5.0 *Authority for County to Use Fund to Secure Outside Grants***

The Land Conservation Commission shall have the authority to apply the funds from the County Stewardship Fund as a local match for State and Federal grants or to other organizations that may be available to acquire land or conservation easements.

### **5.1 *Use of Funds for Outside Appraisals***

In the circumstance where the Land Conservation Commission solicits grant funding from an outside source and the contributor requires an independent appraisal as a condition of property acquisition, the fund may be used for the front-end costs of the appraisal.

In circumstances where acquisition funding is secured and the property is acquired, the Land Conservation Commission will seek reimbursement for the appraisal, if available from the outside source.

## *USE OF FUND BY COUNTY TO DISTRIBUTE LOCAL MATCHING GRANTS*

### **6.0 *Local County Stewardship Grant Awards***

The Land Conservation Commission may reserve and apply a portion of the Fund to establish and administer a County Land Stewardship Fund matching grant program.

### **6.1 *Public Notice and Solicitation of Projects***

The Land Conservation Commission shall, on an annual basis, establish objectives and set priorities for funding allocations. These annual objectives will be considered in addition to general standing criteria used to evaluate and fund project proposals.

The Land Conservation Commission shall actively solicit project proposals through an annual Stewardship Fund grant process.

The Land Conservation Commission shall develop minimum content requirements and a standardized format to solicit grant proposals.



## **6.2 *Time Cycle for Evaluating and Selecting Projects***

The Land Conservation Commission shall publish a Class II Notice before April 1 of each calendar year to inform the public of grant opportunities and to solicit project land proposals.

Applications for County Stewardship project funds will be compiled and systematically evaluated before October 1 of each calendar year.

## **6.3 *Criteria for Evaluating and Selecting Projects***

All project requests submitted through the Stewardship grant program will be evaluated based upon criteria listed in sections 4.2 through 4.6 where appropriate, as well as the following criteria:

- a) Annual grant criteria formally adopted by the Committee.
- b) Commitment by grant applicant to carry out perpetual management responsibilities.
- c) Cost efficiency of the grant request recognizing:
  - i. The proportion of funding provided by outside groups.
  - ii. The total cost per acre as determined in a land appraisal conducted by a State licensed certified appraiser or fair market value.
- d) Total cost of project in relation to funds available.

## **6.4 *Matching Grant Requirements and Eligible Expenses***

To be eligible for project funds, the applicant must provide at least a 50% match. Expenses that may be counted toward the 50% match are as follows:

- a. Property appraisals.
- b. Survey costs.
- c. Recording fees.
- d. Donations toward property management.
- e. Other expenses as included in the annual grant criteria formally adopted by the Land Conservation Commission.

## **6.5 Use of Other Public Grant Sources**

In circumstances where other public grant sources are applied in a project proposal, State and Federal grant funds will not be recognized toward the applicant(s) match.

## **6.6 Project Limitations**

To be eligible for funding, projects must be located in an unincorporated area of Eau Claire County. No project shall receive more than \$100,000 from the County Stewardship Fund without County Board approval. Individual dispersal of funds shall follow Eau Claire County's Finance Department policies for payments.

## **6.7 Excluded Organizations**

The following entities will not be considered eligible for matching funds under the Stewardship Grant Program:

- State or Federal agencies.
- Organizations not covered under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).
- Religious organizations.
- Any organization which discriminates on any basis.

## **6.8 Project Tracking, Audits, Compliance, and Enforcement**

The Land Conservation Commission shall require that a land use agreement be developed as a condition of any grant allocation. The land use agreement will clearly specify land use and development restrictions which will be applied in the interest of land conservation.

To verify compliance with terms of the agreement, the Land Conservation Commission shall conduct an annual project review before October 1 of each year for each project funded under the program. Results of all annual project reviews will be documented in an annual project compliance report.

The Land Conservation Commission will maintain the authority to require that the land use agreement be recorded with the property deed to limit future use and development of the property.

The Land Conservation Commission shall maintain the authority to review and inspect the financial records and reports of any grant recipient through a formal financial audit.

If, as a result of the annual project review or financial audit, the Land Conservation Commission determines that the land is not being managed in accordance with

the land use agreement, the Commission shall take graduated measures to seek compliance.

In circumstances where graduated measures are not adopted or compliance cannot be reached, the Land Conservation Commission shall enforce provisions of the agreement through citation authority, court action, or other mechanisms.

## *PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY*

### **7.0 *Program Evaluation, Reporting, and Accountability***

The Land Conservation Commission shall evaluate the County Stewardship Program on an annual basis. The program evaluation shall assess the success of the program based upon the following criteria:

- a. Level of program participation as measured by the number of donators and amount of donations.
- b. Level of program participation as measured by the number of grant applicants.
- c. The number, size, and location of parcels conserved through the Stewardship Fund.
- d. The extent of progress made towards reaching the objectives made by the Land Conservation Commission as established in section 6.1, Public Notice and Solicitation of Projects.

## *PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH*

### **8.0 *Information and Education; Responsible Parties***

The Land Conservation Commission shall develop a public information and education component of the County Stewardship Program.

### **8.1 *Information and Education Program; Content***

The information and education component shall, at a minimum, inform the public of the program and its objectives, explain opportunities for making contributions to the Stewardship Fund, and the procedure for applying for grants through the Stewardship Program. The Land Conservation Commission may delegate the Information and Education Program to the Land Stewardship Sub-Committee.

APPENDIX

Enrolled No. R153-023

RESOLUTION

File No. 09-10/003

**-DIRECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM-**

WHEREAS, due to the amount and pace of development, valuable larger tracts of natural areas are slowly being lost to urban growth; and

WHEREAS, larger tracts of natural areas are necessary to ensure healthy populations of fish and wildlife, protect water quality and provide outdoor recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of large tracts of natural areas is difficult for any unit of government to finance; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with land trusts, lake associations, local governments and other organizations, for the acquisition of easements or the purchase of land or purchase of development rights, stretches dwindling public funds and leverages outside funding; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with land trusts and nonprofit organizations for the acquisition of easements or the purchase of land can conserve natural areas while preserving the tax base.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the land conservation commission and the department of planning and development to develop, by ordinance, the Eau Claire County Stewardship Program to establish a mechanism for matching grants to land trusts, nonprofit organizations, lake associations and local units of government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the land conservation commission be designated the lead commission to consider the acceptance of donations of money, land or other valuable consideration and the commission to oversee the administration of the Eau Claire County Stewardship Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ordinance establishing the Eau Claire County Stewardship Program shall be developed in cooperation with the parks and forest department, the parks and forest committee and the general public to ensure a wide range of involvement in program development.

ADOPTED: May 19, 2009

Janet K. Loomis  
County Clerk

Background

No-till and cover crops are best management practices that are widely recognized for reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and enhancing soil health. However, area farmers are faced with a challenge when implementing these practices due to lack of specialized equipment available. To overcome these challenges and provide more conservation options to farmers, Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division (LCD) staff sought funds to purchase a no-till drill (planter) that can be made available for county farmers to use to implement these practices.

Funding

The drill was purchased in 2020 from Synergy Cooperative in Ridgeland, WI. The total was \$36,597.69, which included delivery and needed towing equipment for the truck. The following outlines project funding. No county dollars were used to purchase the drill.

Xcel Natural Resources Fund grant	\$ 21,652.00
Anonymous donation	\$ 1,000.00
Pheasants Forever donation	\$ 2,500.00
2019 Multi Discharger Variance funds	\$ 2,910.82
2020 Multi Discharger Variance funds	\$ 4,746.01
Watershed fund balance	\$ 3,788.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,597.69</b>

Great Plains 1006NT end wheel no-till compact drill

The drill is a ten-foot wide, heavy drill with three seed boxes. The regular box is for planting large seeds; a small seed attachment for small legumes & grasses; and a native grass attachment for fluffy, hard to plant native grass seeds.

The multiple seed boxes mean that this drill can be used for a wide variety of plantings. It can plant cash crops, hay and pasture ground, cover crops, and permanent grass such as on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields.

The smaller width and end wheel design means the drill can be transported on the road from farm to farm.



2020 Usage

Renters do pay a small rental fee to use the drill. They are charged a flat rate of \$50 plus \$8 per acre seeded. The money collected is used to fund advertising and future maintenance of the drill. In 2020, the drill was used by a total of 27 farmers to seed 622 acres of no-till in Eau Claire County.

**From:** [Chad Berge](#)  
**To:** [Greg Leonard](#); [Rod Eslinger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Damage Program Legislation Reintroduced, Senate Bill 63  
**Date:** Monday, February 8, 2021 2:13:40 PM

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FYI. This bill is being reintroduced and would remove the county from administering the Deer Damage/Donation Program.

Chad

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**From:** Koele, Bradley M - DNR <Bradley.Koele@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 1:59 PM  
**To:** Blake Schuebel <Blake.Schuebel@co.shawano.wi.us>; Chad Berge <Chad.Berge@co.eau-claire.wi.us>; Trudell, Chad - DATCP <chad.trudell@co.oconto.wi.us>; Cindy Blonk <cblonk@burnettcounty.org>; Craig A. Stewart <stewacas@co.sheboygan.wi.us>; Dave Schultz <dave.schultz@co.ashland.wi.us>; Greg Cervin <cervenewe@hughes.net>; Greg Coulthurst <gcoulthu@co.door.wi.us>; Greg Peterson <greg.peterson@co.waupaca.wi.us>; Bell, Jeff - DATCP <jbell@co.ozaukee.wi.us>; Jon Bechle <bechle\_je@co.brown.wi.us>; Rodney Mayer <rmayer@co.wood.wi.us>; Tim Seidl <lwtech@sawycercountygov.org>; Anita Nelson <Anita.F.Nelson@aphis.usda.gov>; Bob Willging <Robert.C.Willging@aphis.usda.gov>; Chip Lovell <Charles.D.Lovell@aphis.usda.gov>; Dan Hirchert <Daniel.L.Hirchert@aphis.usda.gov>; Ruid, David <david.ruid@aphis.usda.gov>; Laurie Koeck <La.Koeck@aphis.usda.gov>; Mike Jones <Michael.L.Jones@aphis.usda.gov>; Pam Engstrom <Pamela.S.Engstrom@aphis.usda.gov>; Alec Sundelius <Alec.J.Sundelius@aphis.usda.gov>; Barry Benson <barry.f.benson@aphis.usda.gov>; Brian Maedke <brian.k.maedke@aphis.usda.gov>; Chad Alberg <chad.q.alberg@aphis.usda.gov>; Dave Terrall <david.f.terrall@aphis.usda.gov>; Dewayne Snobl <dewayne.a.snobl@aphis.usda.gov>; Henri Woods <henri.a.woodsII@aphis.usda.gov>; Jeremy Irish <jeremy.j.irish@aphis.usda.gov>; Jim Tharman <jim.a.tharman@aphis.usda.gov>; Josh Holden <Joshua.A.Holden@aphis.usda.gov>; Mike Burg <Michael.B.Burg@aphis.usda.gov>; Phil Peterson <philip.v.peterson@aphis.usda.gov>; Ross Mielke <Ross.B.Mielke@aphis.usda.gov>; Seth Zesiger <Seth.L.Zesiger@aphis.usda.gov>; Steve Krueger <steven.m.krueger@aphis.usda.gov>  
**Cc:** Ryan, Tamara M - DNR <Tamara.Ryan@wisconsin.gov>; Wyrick, Sarah A - DNR <sarah.wyrick@wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** Damage Program Legislation Reintroduced, Senate Bill 63

**WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.**

Greetings,

Please be aware that the damage program legislation that was proposed last session was reintroduced in the State Senate last Friday (Senate Bill 63, <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/proposals/sb63>). I expect a companion Bill will be introduced in the Assembly sometime soon. As you may recall the proposed legislation was introduced last session, was passed by the Assembly, but was not voted on in the full Senate before Covid-19 hit and the session ended. The legislation proposes the following changes:

- Effective January 1, 2022, this bill removes counties from the administration of the WDACP and Deer Donation Program and requires DNR to administer the programs instead,

- Eliminates the \$10,000 compensation limit for damage claim payments,
- Adds that damage to commercial seedings or crops growing on agricultural land in order to place a bear trap is eligible for a wildlife damage claim payment,
- Effective June 30, 2021, requires all bear traps to be equipped with remote monitors, including traps placed under the program prior to the effective date of the bill, and
- Waives the hunting access requirement for enrollees who receive bear trapping assistance on leased lands if the enrollee waives any eligibility for compensation of bear damages.

I will follow this Bill, and the Assembly version when introduced, as they move through the legislative process and will provide you with updates along the way. Please make sure your County Land Conservation Department is again aware of the proposal. If there are any questions please let me know.

Best regards!

**We are committed to service excellence.**

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Brad Koele

Wildlife Damage Specialist – Bureau of Wildlife Management

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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